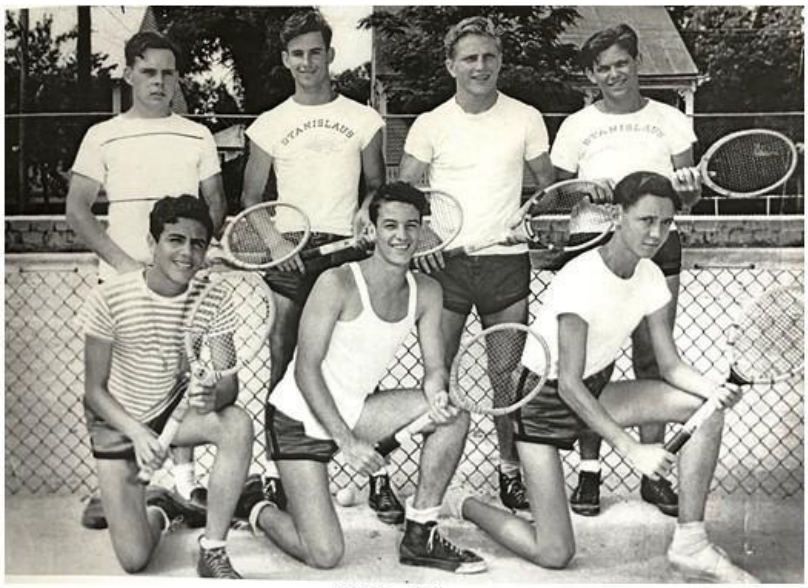
Retro #15 **Tennis, Anyone?**

At SSC, we *Love* to *Add* to our tennis trophies!

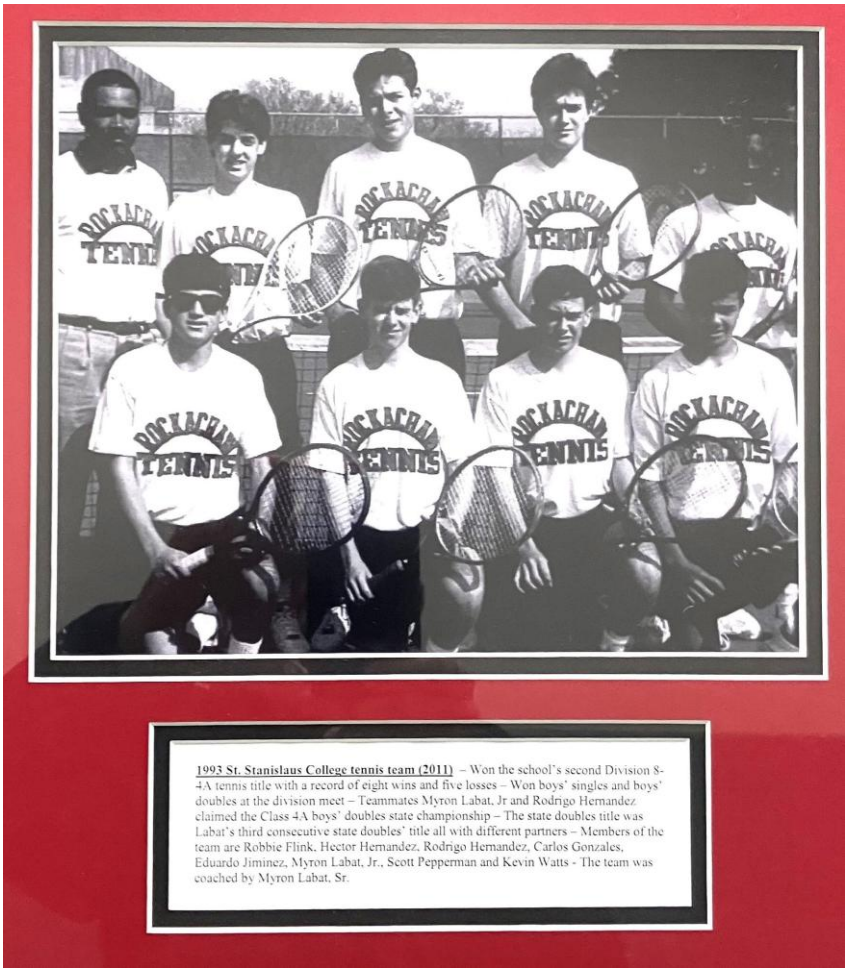
Members of the 1916 Junior Tennis Club at St. Stanislaus decked out in their preppy beanies and fancy shoes probably never imagined that the club would develop into formidable teams that would be crowned Gulf Coast Champions and win State Championships. In 1932 the SSC tennis team began playing other teams in the Gulf Coast region. Nine years later, St. Stanislaus tennis team was undefeated and won its first Gulf Coast Regional Championship in 1941. It signaled the first of many championships to come.



1948 Tennis Team
Front: Richard Horgan, Charles "Buster" Chavannes, Richard Delatte
Back: Buddy Laughlin, Milton Cordell, Joseph David, Ray Sheehy

Between 1968 and 1979, the Rocks compiled an amazing record of 105-3. In 1979, Tommy Wild '79 and his brother Pat '80 combined to win the Mississippi State Championships title in boys' doubles. It was the first of several state tennis titles for the Rocks. In the 1990s, Coach Myron Labat, Sr. coached several outstanding players, including his own son. Myron Labat, Jr. '93 won the state title in doubles

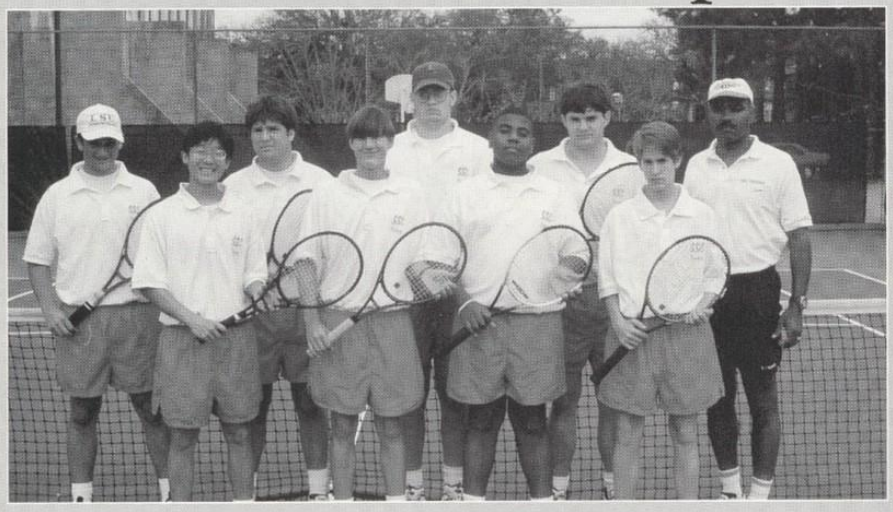
for three consecutive years. The 1993 tennis team and coach were inducted into the St. Stanislaus Wall of Rocks in 2011. Coach Myron Labat led his Rock-a-Chaw tennis players to six division titles and to two state championships in 1998 and 1999.



1993 St. Stanislaus College tennis team (2011) – Won the school's second Division 8-4A tennis title with a record of eight wins and five losses – Won boys' singles and boys' doubles at the division meet – Teammates Myron Labat, Jr and Rodrigo Hernandez claimed the Class 4A boys' doubles state championship – The state doubles title was Labat's third consecutive state doubles' title all with different partners – Members of the team are Robbie Flink, Hector Hernandez, Rodrigo Hernandez, Carlos Gonzales, Eduardo Jiminez, Myron Labat, Jr., Scott Pepperman and Kevin Watts - The team was coached by Myron Labat, Sr.

1998

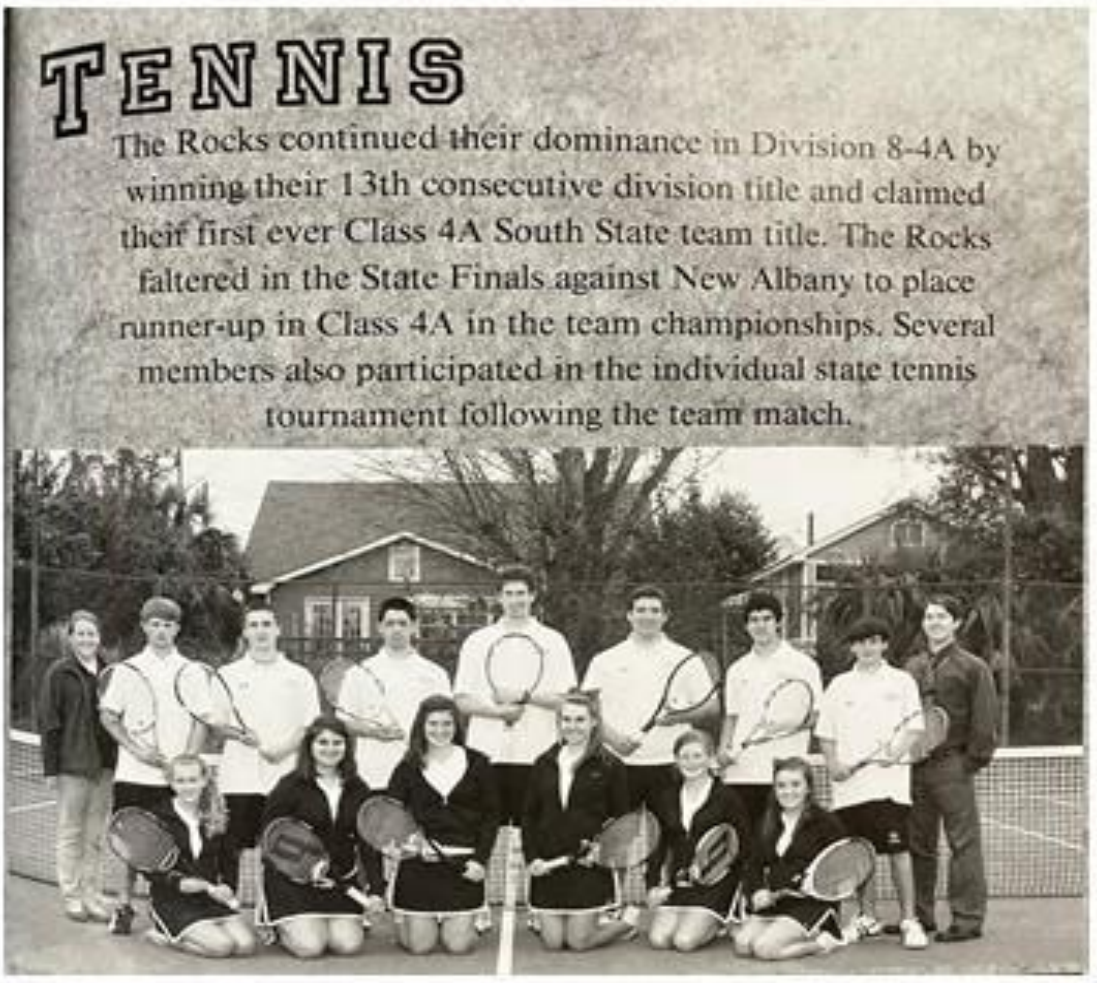
Tennis: State Champions



Members of the State Champion SSC Tennis team, **above**, front row, Olan Suthivej, Michael Carter, Mylon Labat, Phil Marino; back, Scott Wallace, Evan Kennedy, Nick Emerson, Lee Coleman, coach Myron Labat. Not pictured: manager Manuel Valdez. **Below left**, State Champion, Boys Doubles, Phil Marino. **Below right**, State Champion Boys Doubles, Scott Wallace.

In 2010, SSC's tennis team was not only South State Champions, but continued a winning streak of 13 consecutive Division 8-4A Championships that continues to the present day. Two of these recent teams and several individual players went on to claim state titles. The winning tradition continues with the 2023 and 2024 teams capturing the state title and the 2025 team playing in the state finals.

From 2009-2010 *Reflections* SSC Yearbook


TENNIS
The Rocks continued their dominance in Division 8-4A by winning their 13th consecutive division title and claimed their first ever Class 4A South State team title. The Rocks faltered in the State Finals against New Albany to place runner-up in Class 4A in the team championships. Several members also participated in the individual state tennis tournament following the team match.

Beginning with the 1997-1998 school year, the Mississippi State Athletic Association allowed St. Stanislaus to join with Our Lady Academy in order to form teams for mixed doubles competition. The girls frequently practice on the SSC tennis courts next to the Brother Peter gym. These courts were completely renovated in 2001, and the orientation was changed to north-south. When the 1916 Tennis Club formed, SSC enjoyed some of the best tennis courts in the South, second only to Tulane's. At that time, SSC had three superb tennis courts along Union Street where the present Aurelian Hall now stands. In 1956, they were moved to their present location.

Brother Xavier Werneth, May 2025